



Metropolitan Planning Organization
for the Miami Urbanized Area

Transportation Voice

The Bicycle Issue
...come along for the ride!

Spring 2006

Bicycling for Transportation

People ride bikes everywhere: fast-moving athletes training early in the morning; workers riding to catch a bus or train; students going to their school or university; senior citizens staying active and healthy; and tourist enjoying the natural environment and the excitement of the city. All of them are bicyclists and they all have the same needs:

Engineering: Having streets and paths that are fun and safe to ride on make more destinations accessible to more bicyclists.

Education: Knowing how to ride safely in traffic and stay visible at night makes bicycling fun and healthy.

Enforcement:

Bicycles are vehicles under Florida Law and are entitled to the same rights and responsibilities as other vehicles.

Encouragement: Bicyclists are local heroes for helping to clean the air, reduce traffic congestion, and create a more livable community.

To address these needs, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the agency responsible for transportation planning in Miami-Dade County, developed the

Comprehensive Bicycle Plan in 1986 and hired a Bicycle Program Coordinator. Today, the MPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian Program works to increase the number of people bicycling and reduce the number of traffic accidents by:

- Developing plans for bicycle projects and programs;
- Working with local governments to build bike facilities;
- Distributing information on bike safety and riding venues;
- Administering Miami-Dade Transit's (MDT) Metrorail Bicycle Locker program; and
- Giving bicyclists a voice through the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee.



Miami Beach residents ride their bicycles to nearby shops

The 2000 Census reported that more than 4,000 adults ride their bike to work in Miami-Dade County. Over 12,000 people have received a Bike & Ride permit from MDT. Many times more ride for exercise, to shop, or to visit friends, and are served by 50 specialty bike shops as well as other bike retailers in Miami-Dade.

Building a bike-friendly community makes it easier for more people to get around and stay healthy.

Did you know?

Bicycling can benefit your health, your mobility, your money, and your environment.

Health:

Regular physical activity reduces the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, and other chronic diseases and lowers health care costs.



Mobility: Approximately 40% of all trips are less than 2-miles in length; a 10-minute bike ride.

Money: The cost of operating a car for one year is approximately \$5,170. The cost to operate a bike is just \$120.

Pollution Prevention: A short, four-mile round trip by bicycle keeps about 15 pounds of pollutants out of the air we breathe.

Source: *The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center* (www.bicycleinfo.org).

"The MPO encourages all Miami-Dade residents to use their bikes to stay healthy and protect their environment"

-David Henderson, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator



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Bicycle Planning at the MPO

The MPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian Program develops the non-motorized section of the 20-Year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and 5-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and conducts studies of bicycle and pedestrian projects. The LRTP includes an on-road network of streets and important off-road greenways. The greenways were identified through the North and South Dade Greenway Master Plan studies. The on-road network is made up of the major roads that provide the most direct routes to useful destinations. The facilities plan is used to identify new projects and provide planning support for bike-friendly road designs.

The MPO has recently completed or funded several other planning studies of bicycle facilities:

The Snake Creek Bike Trail Planning and Feasibility Study: A master plan of the Snake Creek Greenway from Miami Gardens Drive to the Turnpike in North Miami-Dade.

The Bicycle Facilities Project Evaluation: An evaluation of non-motorized corridors identified in the 2025 LRTP and a more detailed master plan for the Commodore Trail connecting Cocoplum Circle to the Rickenbacker Causeway.

Safe Routes to School Program Procedure Manual: Updates Miami-Dade Public Works' Safe Routes to School program.

North Miami Beach Bicycle Plan: Development of a network of bikeways throughout North Miami Beach.

Bicycle Parking Plan for Miami-Dade Transit: Evaluation of the current bike parking at Metrorail stations and recommendations for improvements and expansion to other transit hubs.

Bicycle Safety Plan: Analysis of traffic crashes involving bicyclists and recommendations for safety countermeasures.

Sunny Isles Beach Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Evaluation: Analysis of a pedestrian bridge connecting North Bay Road in the City of Sunny Isles Beach.

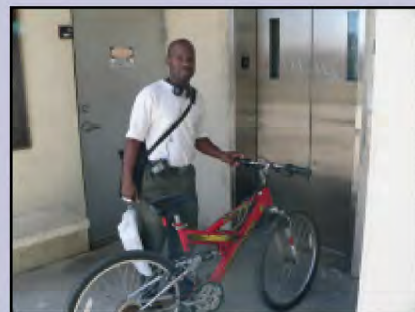
107th Avenue Pedestrian Transit Greenway Plan: Develop concepts for a transit greenway connecting the FIU University Park Campus to the College of Engineering.

What is a Greenway?



Greenways are two-way paths wide enough to carry bicyclists and pedestrians (at least 10-feet wide) and are separated from the roadway by a buffer. They are built along railroads, canals or parks where there are few intersections or driveways. Some examples include the Snake Creek Trail in North Miami Beach, Miami Beach's Atlantic Trail along the ocean, and the Miami River Greenway (shown above).

Bicyclists Among Us...



South Beach

"I love riding my bike on South Beach because I can stop anywhere without worrying about parking."



Virginia Key

"I enjoy riding my bike down the beach when I have some down time from work"



Coconut Grove

"Coconut Grove is a popular destination for working and recreational bicyclists."



Metrorail

"Being able to take your bike on the bus makes it easier to get more places."



Cutler Bay

"We love taking this time to enjoy nature and bond together. It's very relaxing."

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The public is invited to participate in the non-motorized planning process through the MPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

The BPAC meets monthly to review plans and projects and addresses issues of concern to people who bike and walk. "BPAC meetings give people a chance to participate in the decision-making process, and to meet with

staff from the agencies that build bike and pedestrian facilities," states BPAC Chairman, Ted Silver.

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW First Street. Contact David Henderson at 305-375-1647



BPAC Members

or davidh@miamidade.gov to receive the latest BPAC meeting agenda or to obtain information on becoming a BPAC member.

Bike & Ride Program

Combining bicycling and transit makes it much easier to get around. Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) and TriRail make it possible for you to travel with your bike.

Metrobus: All Metrobuses are equipped with a front rack that carries two bikes. No permit or extra fare is required.

Metrorail: Bikes are allowed in the last car of all Metrorail trains when you have a MDT "Bike & Ride" permit. Permits are available at all

Metrorail stations and at the transit information booth at the Government Center.

Tri-Rail: Bikes are allowed on specially marked Tri-Rail cars when you have a Tri-Rail Bicycle Permit sticker.

Permits are available through their website (www.tri-rail.com) or by calling 800-TRI-RAIL.

Bike Parking: Your trip can be completely car free if you use the bike racks provided at MDT and Tri-Rail stations. MDT also provides bike lockers at some stations for secure



Metrobus carries bike on front rack

long-term bike parking.

Visit www.miamidade.gov/mpo to learn more.

**Sign up for:
the BPAC
mailing List;
to become a
BPAC member;
or
to send in your
bike-friendly
suggestions**

Get Involved!

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

☐ Sign me up for the BPAC Mailing List ☐ I want to become a BPAC member

Name: _____

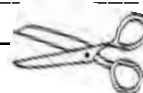
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the Future of
Transportation!*

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